Streamline NEPA with Management Plans.

Language in Sec. 107 would direct NMFS to streamline procedures for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), while not lifting any NEPA requirements, in order to develop management plans more efficiently.

Ensure VMS Flexibility.

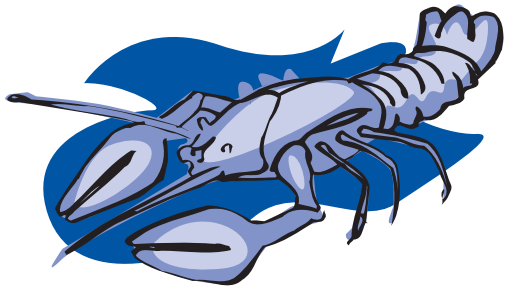
Sec. 112 would allow fishermen to meet VMS requirements with any one of a number of technology systems, which would prevent them from having to purchase duplicate costly systems.

Allow Continued Access to Traditional Processors.

For those fisheries that now rely on Canadian processors, Sec. 106 would also allow those fisheries to obtain a waiver from a new provision in the bill that would require U.S.-caught fish to be processed at a U.S. processing plant.

On December 15th, 2005, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation unanimously approved this bill. It is now before the full Senate for consideration, and Senator Snowe will uphold her efforts to pass this bill this spring.

Please contact Drew Minkiewicz, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Coast Guard, or Kris Lynch, Professional Staff for the Subcommittee, at (202) 224-8172 or fax (202) 224-9334 if you have further questions or comments on the future of S. 2012.



United States Senator Olympia J. Snowe

As Chair of the Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee, Senator Olympia J. Snowe has listened carefully to the thoughts and ideas of those concerned with the Maine fishing industry. As a co-sponsor of S. 2012, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Amendments Act of 2005, Senator Snowe has worked with her colleagues to carefully craft the following provisions in the bill that will help improve fisheries management for Maine's fishermen:

Ensure Fair and Effective Catch Limits.

The language in Sec. 104 would enable managers to use either input or output controls, whichever is consistent with their management plan, in their effort to meet new requirements for annual mortality targets.

Expand Cooperative Research.

Sec. 204 contains language that would expand cooperative research nationwide. The language allows management councils to set research priorities and authorize NMFS to work with non-governmental partners to implement it on a regional basis.

Streamline Experimental Fishing Permits.

Sec. 204 would also require NMFS to simplify and streamline the process for reviewing and approving experimental fishing permits, which should facilitate fishermen's efforts to test new fishing gears and methods on healthy stocks.

Authorize Herring Studies.

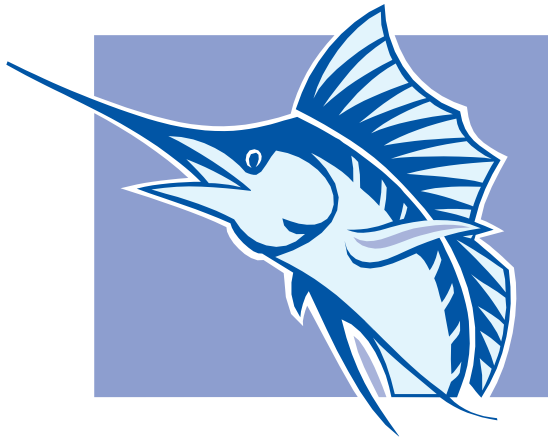
Sec. 205 would authorize a cooperative research program on herring stock size and distribution, which will reduce scientific uncertainty and facilitate sound, science-based herring management.

Improve Social and Economic Impact Assessments.

The language in Sec. 101 would require managers to put more effort into determining social and economic impacts of fisheries management plans, including cumulative impacts of successive plans over time.

Account for Steaming Time.

Sec. 105 would improve equity among states by enabling Councils to take steaming time, or the time it takes to fishermen from different states to transit to distant fishing grounds, into account in their management plans.



Review State Fishing on Federal Stocks.

Sec. 111 would require NMFS to determine if state-licensed groundfish fishing in New England without a federal permit is inconsistent with Amendment 13, and if they find that it is, then they would be required to take action to correct it.

Set Quota National Standards.

Sec. 106 would create national standards for limited access programs, including quotas, to guide how these programs would work and avoid unintended economic consequences. For quota programs in New England, the bill would also require a majority referendum to ensure fishing community support.

Improve Scientific Advice to Councils.

Language in Sec. 103 would direct Council members to consider the advice of scientists in determining total annual catch limits, thereby elevating the role of science in management while allowing managers to have final say in setting catch limits.